

On behalf of Florida's 24th Congressional District, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Edwidge Labbe for her present and future accomplishments.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF
NATIVE AMERICAN CONNECTIONS

HON. RUBEN GALLEG0

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. GALLEG0. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Native American Connections, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year.

Founded in 1972, what once was a small grassroots organization that focused on Native American men and substance abuse has blossomed into an operation of 21 sites throughout Phoenix. What once was just a focus on substance abuse, Native American Connections expanded its reach to affordable housing, health, homelessness, Native American healing and many other projects that affect over 10,000 individuals and families each year. Native American Connections especially takes pride in their community development resources and projects that strengthen the Native American Community and helps celebrate the rich cultural history that is so essential to America today.

Through the organization's core values of empowerment, integrity, stewardship, spirituality, and others, Native American Connections has been able to positively affect the lives of countless people and families for 50 years. Their mission of "Improving the lives of individuals and families through Native American culturally appropriate health, affordable housing, and community development services," has not only been accomplished but continues to do so.

I would like to again congratulate Native American Connections on a remarkable 50 years and look forward to seeing how you change the world next.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED WAY OF
TARRANT COUNTY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the United Way of Tarrant County as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. In 1922, the Fort Worth Community Chest was created when a group of local leaders came together to merge the fundraising efforts from a variety of different charity organizations. These community leaders recognized that working together, united-as-one, was a superior strategy as opposed to competing against each other for charitable resources. This early non-profit organization was the forerunner of today's United Way of Tarrant County.

From its inception, the new organization focused on key initiatives to not only identify problems faced by Tarrant County residents, but to also address the reasons the problems exist in the first place. They have forged cru-

cial partnerships with key community stakeholders. Engaging local governments, fellow non-profits, corporations, and small businesses to collectively combat county-wide challenges pertaining to education, financial stability, and community health. Continuing its growth and assistance to communities, the organization hit a major milestone in 1973, when it became officially known as the "United Way of Metropolitan Tarrant County".

The United Way of Tarrant County continues to empower residents, donors, volunteers, businesses, and other groups who provide crucial support to enable the organization to fulfill its mission to improve the overall quality of life for those in need. Through building trust and relationships with the community, the United Way has always encouraged residents to unite together in order to further worthwhile change and build stronger communities.

I would like to express my admiration and well wishes as this worthwhile humanitarian organization celebrates its centennial. The United Way of Tarrant County is holding its celebratory "Get United Day" event on Thursday, November 17, 2022, at Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas in honor of the 100th anniversary of its founding. The United Way has had a tremendously positive impact on the well-being of Tarrant County's citizens and will undoubtedly do so for decades to come.

AWARDING 1ST CLASS PETTY OFFICER JOHN EDWARD PAGE A
CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, I am honored to present 1st Class Petty Officer John Edward Page, U.S. Navy with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. His service and sacrifice through the Navy exemplify his national pride and embodiment as a role-model citizen to serve the country he loves. This is a very humble gentleman who is committed to being good to others and honoring his sacred Nation.

During his 10 years of military service in the Navy, 1st Class Petty Officer Page served by operating sonar radar missiles on Naval ships that have contributed to victories on the battlefield and had received many service accommodation awards while in Vietnam. After proudly serving the Navy and defending our Nation, 1st Class Petty Officer Page has been incredibly active in his community and has participated in prominent positions since his exit. This includes his time given to not just work at Texas Instruments in Sherman, Texas, but to come out of retirement to help set up divisions of the company all over the world.

His passion for his community also shines as he will operate on, and repair vehicles for people free of charge, or help those in need through his small property rental business. First Class Petty Officer Page has been more than helpful, he has been life changing for a lot of people in his community and throughout his service.

I am beyond honored to have 1st Class Petty Officer Page in Texas' 4th Congressional District and am privileged to award such a distinguished citizen for his sacrifices.

HONORING U.S. AIR FORCE LIEUTENANT COLONEL OLGA E. CUSTODIO

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 10, 2022

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Olga E. Custodio for her service to our country and the San Antonio community. Lt. Col. Custodio graciously served on my 2018 Military Service Academy Nomination Board and played an essential role in helping local students begin their military careers.

Lt. Col. Custodio knew the path to her dream would not be easy. While studying at the University of Puerto Rico, she was denied the opportunity to participate in the university's Reserve Officer Training Corps program because women were not allowed at that time.

Never giving up hope, she went on to fulfill her dream of becoming a commissioned military officer—and more.

As the first Latina to complete U.S. Air Force Undergraduate Pilot Training, she graduated in the top five percent of her class (of 48) with a fighter qualification to fly the T-38 as an instructor pilot. Lt. Col. Custodio points to three principles that have helped her become successful in a profession dominated by men: overcoming self-doubt, staying open to possibilities, and seeing herself as an equal.

A female military aviation pioneer, she served for 24 years in the U.S. Air Force, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. She received an Aviation Safety Award for superior airmanship for her handling of an engine failure in-flight emergency.

After transitioning to the U.S. Air Force Reserve, Lt. Col. Custodio became the first Latina commercial airline pilot for American Airlines and was later upgraded to captain. In addition to the T-38T, she flew the T-41, B-727, F-100, B-757, and B-767. She owns a Cessna T210L and has also flown several general aviation aircraft including the Stearman biplane, Cessna-172, Beechcraft-35 V-tail, Cirrus Vision Jet, and a few others.

Today, Lt. Col. Custodio is retired with over 11,000 flight hours to her name. Now a speaker and community leader, she serves on the board of several nonprofit organizations, including the Latino Pilots Association, Order of Daedalians, Dee Howard Foundation, and Women in Aviation Alamo City, which advocate for inspiring and empowering students, especially those from underserved communities, to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace.

Since 2018, Lt. Col. Custodio has supported the Experimental Aviation Association (EAA) and has moderated several all-female aviation panels during AirVenture at Oshkosh, WI. As a STEM advocate, she also volunteers her time as a speaker and role model at local schools, universities, corporations, and military base groups, encouraging young women and men to reach for their dreams.

Lt. Col. Custodio is a mentor with the Women in Aviation International, Aviation Explorers, and the School of Aeronautics of the InterAmerican University in Puerto Rico. In 2017, she was inducted into the San Antonio Aviation and Aerospace Hall of Fame.

Lt. Col. Custodio recently co-authored the "Latinas in Aviation" anthology and is included